

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-16 and 21 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 12, and 21 being the independent claims. By this amendment, Applicant seeks to amend claims 1, 11, 12, 16, and 21. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the amendments should be entered after final because they require no further search or consideration, as the Examiner has already examined these features, and because they place the application in condition for allowance and/or better condition for appeal.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 21

Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over CrystalClear Audio Codec '97 product information document ("CS4205") in view of Voth et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,957,284 ("Voth") and Wolf et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,088,398 ("Wolf"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The independent claims recite features distinguishing over the cited references. Claims 1, 12, and 21 recite, for example:

... synchronization markers ... representative of a timing ... a rate of the markers being independent of a system clock rate,

...

wherein only the first signal line and the second signal line form the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus structured to communicate audio, the **system clock not communicated** via the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus.

These features are discussed, for example, in Applicants' specification in paragraphs 0027, 0034, and 0048, and are illustrated in FIGS. 2, 4, and 5.

Applicants disagree with the interpretation of the cited references stated in the Office Action (consistent with arguments presented in Applicants' October 6, 2009 response). Nonetheless, the Office Action acknowledges that "CS4205 does not explicitly disclose using *"only"* a first signal line and a second signal line," (Office Action, p. 10). Furthermore, Applicants submit that CS4205 appears to require transmitting a clock to communicate audio. For example, CS4205 states "All communication with the CS4205 is established with a 5-*wire* digital interface to the controller," (emphasis added; CS4205, section 2.1, lines 1-2, page 13, and FIG. 7 illustrating 5-wire interface including BIT_CLK). CS4205 appears to disclose that audio communications (e.g., multi-channel) include transmitting a clock. For example, BIT_CLK of FIGS. 2, 7, and 14, SCLK and LRCK of FIGS. 17-20, and ZSCLK of FIG. 21. Thus, further to the failure to disclose using only a first signal line and a second signal line, CS4205 additionally fails to teach or suggest "the system clock not communicated via the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus," as recited in the claims.

To allegedly cure the deficiencies of CS4205 regarding using only first and second signal lines, the Office Action relies on Voth. However (notwithstanding the arguments presented in the October 6, 2009 response), Voth appears to rely on transmission of a clock. Every figure of Voth (FIGS. 1-5) illustrates a clock. In particular, FIGS. 1-3 illustrate a line dedicated to transmission of a clock. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Voth fails to cure the deficiencies of CS4205, because Voth fails to teach or suggest "the system clock not communicated via the 2-line serial multi-channel audio interconnect data bus," as recited in the claims.

Wolf fails to overcome the deficiencies of CS4205 and Voth relative to claims 1, 12, and 21, described above. Thus, the combination of CS4205, Voth, and Wolf does not teach or suggest all of the distinguishing features recited in claims 1, 12, and 21.

Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-16 depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively. For at least the reasons set forth above regarding claims 1 and 12, and further in view of their own distinguishing features, claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-16 are patentable over the combination of CS4205, Voth, and Wolf.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 7

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over CS4205 in view of Voth and Wolf, and further in view of Wakazu, U.S. Patent No. 6,006,287, ("Wakazu"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 7 depends ultimately from claim 1. Wakazu does not overcome all of the deficiencies of CS4205, Voth, and Wolf relative to claim 1, described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of its own features, claim 7 is patentable over the combination of CS4205, Voth, Wolf, and Wakazu.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is therefore respectfully requested

Conclusion

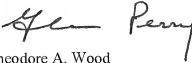
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present

application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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